



## STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, June 1, 2016, from 9:00 am to 12:40 pm  
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

# Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

*a list of acronyms is provided at the end of the document*

### ATTENDEES:

*Work Group members and alternates present, and the organizations and caucuses they represent:*

**Cami Apfelbeck** (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments, and the Work Group's Chair; **Jess Archer** (ECY EAP), State Agencies; **Abby Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies, and the Work Group's Vice Chair; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Leska Fore** (PSP), State Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Todd Hunsdorfer** (King Co), Local Governments; **Shana Joy** (WSPCC), Agriculture; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (ECY WQP), State Agencies; **Ben Parrish** (Covington), Local Governments; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Andy Rheaume** (Redmond), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments; **Theresa Thurlow** (Federal Way), Local Governments; and **Carla Vincent** (Pierce Co).

*Others in attendance:* **Mary Eidemann** (Burien), **Steve Haubner** (Longview), **Sarah Norberg** (Tacoma), **Curtis Nickerson** (Cardno), **Rob Plotnikoff** (TetraTech), **Dorie Sutton** (Vancouver), and **Rod Swanson** (Clark Co).

*Work Group staff:* **Karen Dinicola** (ECY WQP), SWG Project Manager; and **Brandi Lubliner** (ECY WQP), RSMP Coordinator.

### WORK GROUP APPROVES FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMIT SECTION S8 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

At our last five meetings we have discussed how our collective stakeholder group will deliver recommendations to Ecology for improvements to the permit structure for implementing the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). The RSMP is implemented via the Western Washington municipal stormwater NPDES permits Special Condition S8 Monitoring and Assessment. Sub-section S8.B is Status and Trends Monitoring; S8.C is Effectiveness Studies; and S8.D is Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring.

In preparation for today's discussion, the work group's local, state, and federal caucuses and the PRO-Committee discussed the draft set of recommendations that came out of our last meeting on March 16. The leads of the local, state, and federal caucuses met on April 25 with Leska Fore (serving as facilitator), our chair Cami Apfelbeck, and our staff Karen Dinicola to discuss the issues and craft compromise alternatives which the caucuses discussed further. The caucus leads met again on May 17 to produce the set of recommendations discussed at today's meeting.

The work group members held a first round of voting to identify which recommendations had consensus and which needed further clarification, or if there were concerns that needed to be addressed. The work group then discussed and eventually came to agreement on those recommendations. The notes taken on the recommendations document that were projected on-screen during the discussion will be posted with this summary.

Following the meeting, Cami delivered the final recommendations to Ecology, PSP, and PSEMP with her cover letter. The work group will discuss recommendations for RSMP implementation and priorities outside the permit structure later this year.

### WORK GROUP APPROVES UPDATED WORK PLAN

Our work plan is a tool to guide our work over the medium and long-term. The 2016-2017 work plan describes our plans for overseeing and implementing the RSMP under the current permit, as well as developing an agricultural runoff monitoring strategy and discussing other initiatives. With minor revisions, the work group members unanimously agreed to approve the updated work plan for 2016-2017. This business topic had been on our agenda but not discussed for our past two meetings in January and March. This fall our Work Plan Subgroup will propose updates to the work plan for 2017-2018, for work group approval next January. Please let Karen know if you'd like to be added to the subgroup list.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATED ON RSMP IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT; NEW PRO-C MEMBER CONFIRMED**

RSMP Coordinator Brandi Lubliner and PRO-Committee chair Ben Parrish provided a detailed update on RSMP activities, contracting decisions, and upcoming projects. The request for letters of interest for a second round of effectiveness studies was announced on May 18.

Ecology's first Annual Report as RSMP Administrator was delivered in April; this publication might be re-purposed as a work group product in the future. The Association of Washington Cities will begin work on a new RSMP communication strategy this summer. Work group members agreed that AWC and its counterpart Washington State Association of Counties are a good tool for communication of RSMP findings to city managers, public works directors, and elected officials. AWC plans to help "brand" the RSMP to distinguish it from Ecology; work group members agreed that reviewing some early concepts over the summer via email will help move the effort along. Andy Rheaume is interested in helping with this effort, and Kit Paulsen suggested that Allison Bennett at Bellevue would also be helpful. Karen will resend the emails from last month asking for additional volunteers to help inform the communication strategy.

The PRO-Committee is also working on a "report card" on Ecology's performance as RSMP Administrator. This evaluation is specified in the PRO-C charter. The PRO-C expects to deliver this evaluation to the work group following its next meeting in July.

Karen and Brandi are also working on an evaluation of the PRO-C's performance in its oversight role, also specified in the PRO-C charter. Both evaluations may lead to recommendations for changes to the PRO-C charter that the work group will hear about and discuss at our next meeting in September.

The local government caucus nominated Jerralyn Roetemeyer of the City of Redmond to serve as an alternate permittee representative on the PRO-C. The work group confirmed Jerralyn's membership. This leaves one remaining vacancy for a permittee alternate representative on the committee.

## **DRAFT AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF MONITORING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN COMING THIS FALL**

It has been a while since this subgroup met, but Shana Joy has been working on a draft implementation plan for the subgroup members to review and discuss over this coming summer. The implementation plan includes building on specific strategies to implement BMP effectiveness studies and data sharing. WSCC is interested in submitting a budget decision package to support effectiveness monitoring. Work group members agreed to hear a presentation by NRCS on "Discovery Farms" and the "Conservation Effects Assessment Project" at our September or November meeting.

## **WORK GROUP MEETING DATE CHANGED**

The work group members approved a change in our meeting schedule. Our next meeting, originally scheduled for September 14, will be held a week later on September 21. The meeting time and location will not change.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATED ON PSEMP STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO OUR WORK**

PSP announced a significant staff reduction last month. They will not replace retiring PSEMP lead staff Ken Dzinbal; instead their science manager Scott Redman will provide some limited assistance. Leska will remain in her position working on effectiveness monitoring. At their meeting June 14 the PSEMP steering committee will discuss what the reduced staffing level will mean for their work in the future. Meanwhile, PSP director Sheida Sahandy, PSP deputy director Marc Daily, PSEMP chair Scott Powell, and PSEMP vice chair Kate Litle have begun conversations about how to better integrate data into decision making.

An *ad hoc* group of permittees and other stakeholders has been meeting to discuss recommendations for other parts of the municipal stormwater permits. Contact [Todd Hunsdorfer](#) if you'd like more information about this process.

Following the meeting, many work group members stayed to watch The Nature Conservancy [video](#) that features Jen McIntyre describing the stormwater problem and the effectiveness of filtration in solving the problem of pre-spawn mortality.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS**

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear feedback from the RSMP Coordinator and PRO-Committee on RSMP implementation,
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our current work plan,
- Hear from the PSEMP Steering Committee and other PSEMP workgroups, and
- Determine messages and timing for the next SWG Reporter issue.

At our next meeting on **Wednesday, September 21, 2016 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the USGS Office in Tacoma, we will also:

- Begin to discuss recommendations for RSMP implementation and oversight outside the permit structure,
- Hear an update on progress toward a draft implementation plan for agricultural runoff monitoring, and
- Consider updates to our work plan for 2017-2018.

The work group meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2016 are on September 21 and November 9.

## **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY:**

AWC – Association of Washington Cities

BMP – Best Management Practice

ECY EAP – Washington Dept. of Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program

ECY WQP – Washington Dept. of Ecology's Water Quality Program

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

PRO-C or PRO-Committee – Pooled Resources Oversight Committee

PSEMP – Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

PSP – Puget Sound Partnership

RSMP – Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SWG – Stormwater Work Group

USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS – U.S. Geological Survey

WDNR – Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

WSCC – Washington State Conservation Commission

WSDOT – Washington Dept. of Transportation